

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CERTIFICATION OF WATER
AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS AND
LABORATORY ANALYSTS
CHAPTER 750-6 EXPIRATION, RENEWAL, AND CONTINUING
EDUCATION, 750-6-.04 EDUCATION PROVIDERS, COURSES, AND POINTS
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 750-6-.04 EDUCATION PROVIDERS, COURSES, AND POINTS

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rule 750-6-.04, Education Providers, Courses, and Points (herein after “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/water. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404)424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment at a public hearing to be held at 10:00am, February 17, 2021 in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. If the Board office remains closed due to the public health emergency (COVID-19), the hearing will be held via teleconference. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via teleconference.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on February 10, 2021. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to La Trenda Tyler-Jones, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Written comments may be faxed to (866) 888-9718.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

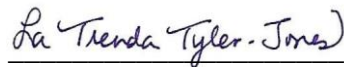
The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on October 28, 2020. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule amendment does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-1-4, and 43-1-25. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-1-4, and 43-1-25 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the profession.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 750-2-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-1-4, and 43-1-25.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404)424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 30th day of November, 2020.



La Trenda Tyler-Jones
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 12/1/2020

SYNOPSIS TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULE 750-6-.04 EDUCATION PROVIDERS, COURSES, AND POINTS

Purpose/Main Feature: The proposed amendments to this rule allow for basic and advanced education courses to be taught via “Webinars” (as now defined), clarify that Webinars will receive full credit (i.e., one (1) continuing education point per hour), as compared to half-credit for online courses. The Board has considered multiple variations and alternate terminology and sentence structure and finds that this version is the least restrictive way to accomplish the Board’s goals. The Board feels that due to the move towards more distance learning, especially as a result of the current global health crisis, that this change is necessary so as to not further impede an applicant’s ability to get licensed or a licensee’s ability to maintain their license.

Chapter 750-6 EXPIRATION, RENEWAL, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Rule 750-6-.04 Education Providers, Courses, and Points

- (1) The Board shall maintain a list of currently approved course providers in accordance with eligibility criteria published by the Board. Course providers must be approved by the Board or its designee in order for applicants to receive credit. The Board may also elect to approve individual courses. A request by a course provider for approval must be submitted on a form that may be obtained from the Board and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee and supporting documents as required by the Board (See Fee Schedule). Effective July 1, 2013, course providers shall agree to provide rosters in electronic format of all attendees for all courses approved by the Board. The Professional Licensing Boards Division shall provide the electronic format for use in submitting rosters. All course approvals shall expire on or before January 31 of even-numbered years.
- (2) Providers of Basic and Advanced courses must teach such courses in a traditional classroom setting or by Webinar, as defined in Rule 750-2-.01. These courses are required for applicants to be eligible to sit for a certification examination.
- (3) Education Providers desiring Board consideration for approval must submit to the Board a completed Registration Form and required information to the Board; and
- (4) The Board may conduct an audit of Education Providers and education courses to ensure compliance.
- (5) The Board may require Education Providers to submit an electronic roster of attendees for all courses approved by the Board.
- (6) Continuing Education Courses.

Approved education courses expire January 31 of even numbered years. The Board may approve continuing education courses for Management Safety, Water, Wastewater, or both Water and Wastewater, which are offered in person, online, through correspondence courses, and Webinars and webcasts ~~Webcasts~~ subject to the following:

- (a) Submission of completed application and appropriate fee; and

- (b) documentation of topic(s) to be taught, indicating hours of instruction for each topic; and
 - (c) credentials of the educators/presenters involved; and
 - (d) name of the moderator documenting on-site attendance/registration.
 - (e) Only operational or regulatory topics will be approved for Webinars ~~webinars~~ or webcasts.
 - (f) Certificates of completion must be presented to attendees who complete the Webinars ~~webinars~~ or webcast.
- (7) Determination of Continuing Education Points.
- (a) Points shall be awarded in whole numbers. No partial points shall be awarded for courses that total less than whole hours.
 - (b) Traditional classroom courses and Webinars ~~webinars~~ on operational, analytical, safety and management topics shall be granted one point per contact hour up to a maximum of 6 points per day and 12 points per event.
 - (c) Online courses on operational, analytical, safety, and management topics shall be granted one-half point per contact hour up to a maximum of 6 points, unless the course is a Webinar, or unless the course provider demonstrates greater credit is justified through beta testing results, or unless the course provider is IACET (International Association for Continuing Education and Training) approved. ~~(IACET—International Association for Continuing Education and Training).~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-1-4, and 43-1-25.

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Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-1-4, and 43-1-25.